

INFORMATION REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Korea/USSR

SUBJECT North Korean Purchases of Trucks from USSR

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 50X1-HUM

1. [redacted] the number of Soviet-made trucks in North Korea has in-  
creased considerably. About thirty trucks were received [redacted]  
[redacted] arriving at Pyongyang from Chongjin (129-49, 41-46) via Wonsan 50X1-HUM  
(127-26, 39-10). The trucks were not made available to civilians but were  
all turned over to the People's Army. Exact terms of the purchase of the 50X1-HUM  
trucks were not known, but they were thought by observers to be imported as  
part of the army's effort to build up its mechanized units.
2. The trucks, which have a carrying capacity of two tons, run only on gaso-  
line, although some of the army's American and Japanese-made vehicles have  
been converted to charcoal. Use of gasoline is rigidly restricted except  
in the 38th Parallel area, even for military vehicles.
3. The performance of the Soviet-made trucks is very low, and many which have  
broken down have not been repaired because of the shortage of spare parts.  
Most of the vehicles are used in transporting military supplies to bases  
without rail facilities or along the border.

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